

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MELBOU 00943 140722Z

11
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 /083 W
----- 042973

R 140552Z JUL 75
FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2855
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL BRISBANE
AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 0943

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E O 11652 N A
TAGS PINT, AS
SUBJ: SOUTH AUSTRALIA RETURNS DUNSTAN LABOR GVT. FOR NEW THREE YEAR
TERM

REFS: A) MELBOURNE 813; B) MELBOURNE 776

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH MAIL AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE NOT YET
COMPLETELY COUNTED, RESULTS OF SNAP ELECTION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA
INDICATE DUNSTAN GOVT RETURNED WITH REDUCED MAJORITY.
LIBERAL MOVEMENT REACHES GOAL OF 20 PER CENT OF VOTE. DUNSTAN
WILL NEED SUPPORT FROM SOLE INDEPENDENT NEWLY ELECTED. END SUMMARY

2. PREMIER DUNSTAN CALLED SNAP ELECTION JUNE 20TH WHEN AUGURIES
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MELBOU 00943 140722Z

INDICATED EASY WIN OVER DISORGANIZED OPPOSITION. HOWEVER, SOUTH

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY PLAGUED DURING THREE-WEEK CAMPAIGN, FIRST BY LABOR PARTY DISASTER IN BASS BY-ELECTION AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY CANBERRA CONFUSION OVER LOANS AND INTERNAL FEDERAL LABOR PARTY DISSENSION INVOLVING FORMER TREASURER CAIRNS. HOWEVER, AS OF JULY 14, DUNSTAN SEEMED TO HAVE SURVIVED JULY 12 ELECTION INVOLVING NEARLY SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND VOTERS THROUGHOUT STATE. AT STAKE WAS WHOLE 47-SEAT LOWER HOUSE AND ELEVEN SEATS IN 22-MEMBER UPPER LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. IN LOWER HOUSE LABOR EMERGED WITH TWENTY-THREE SEATS DOWN FROM 26, WHILE LIBERAL PARTY NOW HOLDS TWENTY, AN INCREASE OF TWO. BREAKAWAY LIBERAL MOVEMENT MAINTAINS ITS TWO SEATS, AND COUNTRY PARTY HOLDS ITS SINGLE SEAT. BALANCE OF POWER IS THEREFORE IN HANDS OF LONE INDEPENDENT, WHO, AS DISSIDENT LABOR PARTY MEMBER, IS EXPECTED TO VOTE MOSTLY WITH DUNSTAN GROUP, ENSURING LABOR CONTROL. IN THE UPPER HOUSE LABOR WILL NOW HAVE TEN MEMBERS IN THE NEW COUNCIL; THE LIBERAL PARTY NINE; AND THE LIBERAL MOVEMENT TWO. OBVIOUSLY, BALANCE OF POWER WILL NOW BE IN HANDS OF LIBERAL MOVEMENT.

3. BOB HAWKE, PRESIDENT OF FEDERAL LABOR PARTY AND ACTU, RETURNED TO AUSTRALIA ALSO ON JULY 12 FROM ATTENDANCE AT ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA AND ICFTU REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK AND HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ELECTION RESULTS KNOWN. HE REVEALED DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT OVER RECENT LABOR PARTY PERFORMANCE, NOTING HE HAD PREDICTED BASS BY-ELECTION FIASCO IN TASMANIA AND STATING THAT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA DISENCHANTMENT OF PEOPLE WITH THE FEDERAL GOVT HAD REFLECTED BACK ON THE DUNSTAN GOVT, ALMOST CAUSING ITS DEFEAT. MEDIA REPORTERS AND READERS HAVE NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT HAWKE NOW LEADS MOVE WITHIN FEDERAL PARTY EXECUTIVE TO GREATLY CONSTRAIN PRIME MINISTER AND INDEED TO REJECT HIM IF HE RESISTS ATTEMPTS AT PARTY DISCIPLINE.

4. COMMENT: LABATT SPENT JULY 10 AND 11 IN ADELAIDE TALKING WITH LEADERS OF ALL THREE PARTIES ENGAGED IN ELECTION AND REPORTS THAT NONE WAS VERY CONFIDENT IN PRIVATE IN SPITE OF PUBLIC CLAIMS. LIBERAL MOVEMENT STATE LEADER ROBIN MILLHOUSE HAD EARLIER TOLD CONGEN (SEE REFTEL A) THAT HE HOPED TO GET TWENTY PER CENT OF THE VOTE WHICH HE HAS NOW DONE. EVEN BEFORE ELECTION RESULTS ORTHODOX LIBERAL PARTY LEADER EASTICK WAS BEING SEVERELY CRITICIZED FOR INEXPERT AND UNEVEN CAMPAIGN. IAN MESSENGER, ASSISTANT PUBLISHER OF INFLUENTIAL ADELAIDE ADVERTISER TOLD CONGEN THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MELBOU 00943 140722Z

EASTICK WILL NOT LAST LONG AS LIBERAL LEADER. IF EASTICK IS REPLACED THIS COULD SET STAGE FOR EVENTUAL HEALING OF DEEP BREACH BETWEEN LIBERAL PARTY AND LIBERAL MOVEMENT.

5. STRENGTH OF DUNSTAN POPULIST PROGRAM HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY HIS ABILITY TO SURVIVE IN SPITE OF WIDESPREAD REJECTION OF HIS PARTY'S CONDUCT OF FEDERAL GOVT. REPORTING MEDIA JULY 14 HELD UP DUNSTAN VICTORY AS MODEL FOR WHITLAM GOVT FUTURE

CONDUCT. COMMENTATORS NOW LOOKING FORWARD TO LABOR PARTY FEDERAL
PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS MEETING JULY 14 AND UPCOMING LABOR PARTY
FEDERAL EXECUTIVE JULY 25, EXPECT INTERNAL CONVULSIONS WHICH WILL
HAVE SOME EFFECT ON POSSIBILITY OF EARLY FEDERAL
ELECTIONS.
BRAND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MELBOU00943
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750242-0403
From: MELBOURNE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750759/aaaacana.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MELBOURNE 813, 75 MELBOURNE 776
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH AUSTRALIA RETURNS DUNSTAN LABOR GVT. FOR NEW THREE YEAR TERM
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, AS, AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY, (DUNSTAN, DON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006